AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for improving communication between a switched network and a packet network, comprising:

a signaling gateway for converting signaling associated with a call ~~in~~ between a first protocol and ~~to~~ a second protocol~~, and from said second protocol to said first protocol~~;

at least one media gateway for converting multimedia packets associated with the call ~~provided in~~ between a first format ~~into~~ and a second format~~, and from said second format into said first format~~;

~~a session router for selecting at least one multimedia transmission route to a destination, said destination being specified by said switched network; and~~

a media router through which the multimedia packets flow on the way ~~for guiding said multimedia~~ to ~~said~~ a destination after conversion by said media gateway; and

a session router for selecting, for the multimedia packets, at least one route traversing the media router, said selected route ending in the destination, said destination specified by said switched network.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said first format is a time division multiplexing format and said second format is a real time protocol format.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said media gateway does not determine the destination of said multimedia.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said first protocol is signaling system number seven and said second protocol is a session Internet protocol.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said second protocol is real time protocol.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said packet network is an Internet protocol network.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said switched network is a public switched telephone network.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said first format is a time division multiplexing format.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said second format is a real time protocol format.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said switched network communicates with said signaling gateway via use of signaling system number seven.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signaling gateway comprises a memory that may be utilized for converting a received circuit identification code into a session description protocol header.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said session description protocol header is utilized by said destination, located within said packet network, to direct data packets to said media gateway.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said session description protocol header comprises an Internet protocol address and port for said destination.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein communication between said session router and said signaling gateway is performed via use of session Internet protocol signaling.

15-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A system for improving communication between a switched network and a packet network, comprising:

means for converting signaling associated with a call ~~from~~ between a first protocol and ~~to~~ a second protocol~~, and from said second protocol to said first protocol~~;

means for converting multimedia packets associated with the call ~~from~~ between a first format and ~~to~~ a second format~~, and from said second format to said first format~~;

~~means for selecting at least one multimedia transmission route to a destination, said destination specified by said switched network; and~~

means for guiding said multimedia packets to said destination after conversion by said means for converting multimedia, wherein the multimedia packets flow through the means for guiding on the way to said destination; and

means for selecting, for the multimedia packets, at least one route traversing the media router, said selected route ending in the destination, said destination specified by said switched network.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first format is a time division multiplexing format and said second format is a real time protocol format.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for converting multimedia provided in a first format into a second format, and from said second format into said first format, does not determine the destination of said multimedia.

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first protocol is signaling system number seven and said second protocol is session Internet protocol.

36. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said second protocol is real time protocol.

37. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said packet network is an Internet protocol network.

38. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said switched network is a public switched telephone network.

39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first format is a time division multiplexing format.

40. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said second format is a real time protocol format.

41. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said switched network communicates with said signaling gateway via use of signaling system number seven.

42. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for converting signaling in a first protocol into a second protocol, and from said second protocol to said first protocol, further comprises a means for storing that may be utilized for converting a received circuit identification code into a session description protocol header.

43. (Original) The system of claim 42, wherein said session description protocol header is utilized by said destination located within said packet network to direct data packets to said means for converting multimedia.

44. (Original) The system of claim 42, wherein said session description protocol header comprises an Internet protocol address and port for said destination located within said packet network.

45. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the session router is configured to communicate a port allocation request to the media router, and the media router is configured to allocate, responsive to the request, a port on the media router and to communicate the allocated port to the session router.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the session router is further configured to communicate the allocated port to the media gateway, and the media gateway is configured to transmit multimedia packets associated with the call to the media gateway using the allocated port.

47. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the session router is further configured to communicate the port allocation request in response to a signaling message received from the signaling gateway.

48. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the signaling gateway is configured to convert a Circuit Identification Code (CIC) in an incoming signaling message to an Internet Protocol (IP) address and port in a stateless manner.

49. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the signaling gateway is further configured to convert the CIC to the IP address and port using a mapping table.

50. (New) The system of claim 49, wherein the IP address and ports in the mapping table correspond to IP addresses and ports located on the media router.

51. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for selecting is configured to communicate a port allocation request to the means for guiding, and the means for guiding is configured to allocate, responsive to the request, a port on the means for guiding and to communicate the allocated port to the means for selecting.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the means for selecting is further configured to communicate the allocated port to the means for guiding, and the means for guiding is configured to transmit multimedia packets associated with the call to the means for converting multimedia using the allocated port.

53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the means for selecting is further configured to communicate the port allocation request in response to a signaling message received from the means for converting signaling.

54. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for converting signaling is configured to convert a Circuit Identification Code (CIC) in an incoming signaling message to an Internet Protocol (IP) address and port in a stateless manner.

55. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the means for converting signaling is further configured to convert the CIC to the IP address and port using a mapping table.

56. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein the IP address and ports in the mapping table correspond to IP addresses and ports located on the media router.

57. (New) A method for improving communication between a switched network and a packet network, comprising the steps of:

converting signaling associated with a call between a first protocol and a second;

converting multimedia packets associated with the call between a first format and a second;

guiding said multimedia packets to said destination after conversion by said means for converting multimedia, wherein the multimedia packets flow through the means for guiding on the way to said destination; and

selecting, for the multimedia packets, at least one route traversing the media router, said selected route ending in the destination, said destination specified by said switched network.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising the steps of:

communicating a port allocation request;

allocating a port for routing of the multimedia packets, responsive to the request; and

communicating the allocated port to the requester.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of:

transmitting multimedia packets associated with the call using the allocated port.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of:

communicating the port allocation request in response to a received signaling message .

61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the converting signaling step further comprises:

converting a Circuit Identification Code (CIC) in an incoming signaling message to an Internet Protocol (IP) address and port in a stateless manner.